THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A six-member British Parliamentary delegation visited J & K from 27—29 September, 1994.

In a statement issued in India, the British Members of Parliament welcomed the efforts of Government of India to restore a democratic process in J & K and hoped that all parties would participate in elections. They urged an end to violence, and to the means to violence, and a cessation of external support for militancy. They expressed the brief and this was not a problem which could be solved in the end without dialogue between India and Pakistan. They encouraged the Governments of both countries to return to the negotiating table.

In remarks to the press on their return to London, the British MPs stated that seeing the considerable quantity of sophisticated arms which had reached the militants, there could be no doubt about Pakistan's involvement in terrorism in Kashmir. The team complimented the Government of India for its policy of transparency. They felt that the militants' aim was clearly to prevent any substantial turnout in the elections proposed to be held in J & K so that the results would not be recognized as an expression of the will of the people of Kashmir. They suggested the presence of some international observers in J & K "not to check or supervise the fairness of the elections' but to be able to reassure world opinion that the elections had not been undermined by intimidation and their results were not distorted.

US Congressman Gary L. Ackerman and Congresswoman Barbara-Rose Collins visited Srinagar and Jammu on November 16-17, 1994.

Following their trip to J & K, the Congressional delegation was of the view that as long as the election process in Kashmir was transparent and could be observed and reported upon by the international media, the demand for involving international or UN observers would not be an important issue.

The question of declaring Pakistan a terrorist State was not addressed by either of the two delegations in the context of their visits to Kashmir, and there was no public comment by them on this issue.

**Rejection of offer by Pakistan to resolve Kashmir issue bilaterally**

45. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan Prime Minister had sent a "Special message' to the Clinton Administration urging a kind of the US mediation in resolving the Kashmir dispute;

(b) whether Pakistan Prime Minister also called for third party mediation to resolve the Kashmir issue, saying that India and Pakistan with their set positions cannot solve it by themselves;

(c) whether in a television interview in Washington Pakistan Prime Minister said a military confrontation between India and Pakistan was not going to resolve the Kashmir issue; as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 21st November, 1994;

(d) whether Pakistan rejected on the same day the offer of Indian Prime Minister for holding talks to resolve bilateral matters saying that New Delhi is "insincere' in resolving the Kashmir issue;

(e) whether Pakistan rejected the Indian offer for resumption of Secretary-level talks also; and

(f) if so, how do Government propose to move in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Pak leadership has from time to time sought mediation on J&K by various countries including the United States.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir.

(f) Government are convinced that all outstanding issues with Pakistan could be resolved peacefully and through negotiations. Government have, in this sprit, repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan in the recent period our readiness to hold talks, formally or informally. We are disappointed that a positive response is not available so far from Pakistan. We would pursue our proposal of a constructive dialogue with Pakistan at every opportunity.

**Nuclear Test by China**

46. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has conducted its third nuclear test recently even having signd the NPT some years back; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto particularly in the context of building up nuclear arsenals in the neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has consistently advocated the urgent need for a universal Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. It remains our hope that all nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon states can work together to negotiate such a treaty. India considers a CTBT an integral part of its proposals for nuclear disarmament and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-world.

**Options given by Pakistan to Resolve Kashmir Issue**

47. SYED SIBTEY RAZI:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item published in the Indian Express of 24th November, 1994 under the caption "Pakistan has six different ways of solving Kashmir issue"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in respect thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Government have seen the news item in the "Indian Express" of November 24, 1994 and subsequent press reports of clarificatory statements and denials by Pak officials.

(b) Government have repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan its readiness to resolve all outstanding issues between the two countries, including differences relating to J & K, peacefully and through bilateral negotiations within the ramework of the Simla Agreement.

**Land Route to Gulf Countries via Pakistan**

48. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land-route to Gulf countries via Pakistan is not being opened due to lack of political will, that is having adverse bearing on economy of the country; and

(b) if so, whether that will be opened and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

**UN-Diplomatic Role by Indian Ambassador in Nepal**

49. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn into the allegation that our Ambassador in Nepal had played partisan role in the recent general elections in that country;